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## Montana Kaimin, September 3, 2002

Associated Students of the University of Montana

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# MONTANA KAIMIN

Kaimin is a Salish word for paper

Tuesday

September 3, 2002 — Issue 1

## Surcharges to rise next spring

*Tuition increase caused by shortfall in Montana budget*

**Chris Rodkey**  
Montana Kaimin

As a result of an unexpected shortfall in the state budget, University of Montana students are facing a \$2.50 per credit hour tuition surcharge this semester, and will face a \$10 per credit hour surcharge next spring.

For a student taking 15 credit hours, the charges will amount to \$37.50 for fall semester and \$150 for spring semester.

The shortfall in funds announced by Governor Judy Martz this summer resulted in a

special session of the Montana Legislature in which more than 10 percent was shaved from UM's budget.

UM is dealing with the shortfall in different ways, said Bob Durringer, vice president of administration and finance at UM. Students and the University will split the cost of the reduction evenly, with students paying the surcharges and the University cutting funds.

Ten different sources received cuts, Durringer said, the largest being the University's \$2 million contingency fund, which was cut nearly in half. Funds were also taken out of facilities and information technology budgets. However, not a penny was reduced from academic spend-

ing, Durringer said, noting that the University's main priority was to educate students.

"We didn't hurt anybody," he said, "we kind of put people on a 'slim-fast' program, but we didn't starve them out."

UM President George Dennison sent a letter to all students enclosed with their bills explaining the surcharges. Dennison was unavailable for comment this week.

The surcharges are meant to be a temporary fix to solve the problems for the upcoming fiscal year. The Legislature has the chance to restore funds during its regular spring session, but Durringer said he thinks the legislators will simply pick up where they left the budget last

August and that the surcharges will be rolled into a tuition increase for next year.

ASUM President Jon Swan was present at the House Appropriations Committee meeting before the special session convened, hoping to lobby legislators for more university funds. He said the reception he received was chilly at best.

"The most discouraging part about it was that everybody already knew what was going to go on," Swan said. "We were told, 'Why are you even here? You're wasting your time on public comment.' I think public opinions are not as respected as they should be."

Swan said that though legisla-

See **TUITION**, Page 7

## Ex-UM cop to face rape charge

*Quadriplegic woman reports attack in East Missoula home*

**Kellyn Brown**  
Montana Kaimin

A former University of Montana Public Safety officer charged with rape will have his initial hearing Sept. 12 for allegedly sexually assaulting a quadriplegic woman in her East Missoula home in the spring.

Tyrone Leo Baird, 54, was charged on May 24 with one count of felony sexual intercourse without consent. Baird, who had worked on the UM police force since April 2001, was immediately suspended following the charges and now has been fired.

Lt. Jim Lemcke, assistant director of Public Safety, said he fired Baird after deciding the investigation made it impossible for Baird to function as a police officer.

"We want to keep this place as clean and professional as possible," Lemcke said.

According to court documents filed by attorney Kirsten LaCroix on May 24, a woman called 9-1-1 May 22 to notify them that she had been raped by Baird in her home in April. She told investigators that she waited to report the incident to police because she feared retribution from Baird and his wife, and she didn't think that people would believe her because Baird was a police officer.

The woman — who since birth has suffered from a nervous disease that leaves her unable to walk and limits the use of her arms — told Sheriff's Lt. Rich Maricelli that Baird was related to her boyfriend and lived with her from December 2001 until April 3 because he was having marital difficulties. She said that during the time Baird lived with her, he purchased a truck from her that she later repossessed because he allegedly failed to insure the vehicle and stole parts from it.

While Baird lived with her, he allegedly made several sexual advances toward her and her home health care aide, the affidavit said. He also allegedly sent the woman nude pictures of himself with sexual titles over the Internet from the University a couple days before the alleged rape.

According to the court document, the woman feared Baird and told him to never come into her room while she was sleeping and made arrangements for a neighbor to come stay with her for protection.

The woman said she was sleeping on the day of the alleged assault when Baird came into her bedroom, began talking to her and

See **BAIRD**, Page 7

## Arson case intensifies

*Investigators search couple's safe to probe for evidence*

**Kellyn Brown**  
Montana Kaimin

It has been nearly seven months since UM professor Carla Grayson's home was set on fire, but the heat surrounding the case has now intensified with a recent application for a search warrant for the contents of the couple's safe.

The application, which is a public document that outlines the prosecutors' arguments about why police investigators wish to search the property in question, was filed Aug. 17. It gives a detailed account of what prosecutors and police

believe happened during the early morning hours of Feb. 8 when

Grayson and her partner Adrienne Neff's South Hills home was gutted.

Days before the fire, Grayson, an assistant professor in psychology, Neff and another lesbian couple filed a lawsuit against the Montana University System arguing that it was violating the state constitution by not offering health benefits to same-sex partners of gay and lesbian employees.

No charges have been filed in the arson.

Missoula County Attorney Fred Van Valkenburg said that the couple has cooperated during the course of the ongoing investigation.

"I don't think there is suffi-

See **ARSON**, Page 3



A lamp is among the charred remains that have been removed from the house located at 100 Rimrock Way.

Josh Parker/Montana Kaimin



## OPINION

## Letter from the editor

Welcome to Kaimin 101;  
all you need is what's in  
your hands right now

Greetings. The fact that you've made it this far — though we hope you make it past Page 2 — bodes well for your year. It's the first day of school and already you've picked up one of the staples of a well-rounded UM diet: the Montana Kaimin. Or maybe you just thought you'd need something to read instead of your class syllabus.

Whatever your reasons for reading the Kaimin, we strive to bring you a paper that is informative, entertaining and worth your time.

Today the Kaimin enters its 105th year of covering the people, issues and events of the UM community. We're committed to serving our readers by bringing the news into the home, the classroom and the community as a whole. Every Tuesday through Friday the Kaimin staff — all UM students who sit next to you in class and party downtown with you on the weekends — will cover the news that affects you. We're keeping tabs on local housing issues, how your tuition money is spent and the best bands to catch this weekend.

There is something for everyone in the Kaimin.

Every Wednesday and Friday look for Eye Spy, our arts and entertainment section. On Thursdays, look to the Outdoors page for the latest outdoor sport and recreation adventures. New to the Kaimin this year will be an indepth issues section, which will appear every Tuesday, starting next week. In this section, we'll explore issues and people more thoroughly and creatively than in daily news coverage. Look here for a different take on what's going on and you'll see stories told through photographs and a more narrative style of journalism.

For the Griz fans hoping for a repeat victory this year, make sure you pick up GameDay Kaimin in Friday's papers and on Saturday mornings before the home games. The Kaimin staff will be walking through the crowds, handing out a paper loaded with features of Griz players and news from the rest of the Big Sky Conference.

Each Friday our opinion page will feature "Campus Voices" a column open to anyone who wants their voice heard around campus and Missoula. Please submit these columns by Wednesday afternoons, but keep them to 600 words and remember we can edit them for clarity, brevity or content.

We also want to know what you think of us, the news and the state of the world, so send us letters to the editor at [www.kaimin.org](http://www.kaimin.org) or bring them into the Kaimin in Journalism Building 206. Bring ID with you so we can verify that you have written the letter, or include a phone number so we can give you a call.

Whether this is the start of your career at UM or you've been here for years, remember that this is your paper and the door is always open.

Now get back to that syllabus.

— Jessie Childress

## Courtney's Corner

## Knowledge may be free; if only tuition was

## Column by



Courtney Lowery

I've heard that you can tell a lot about a person by the contents of his or her pockets. Well, these days it seems like all that people can infer about us is ... we're broke.

And when I say we, I don't just mean the editorial we — I mean the actual we — meaning you, Joe Student; you, Jane Professor; you, Sally Staff Member and yes, even you, George Administrator. And you aren't the only ones. There are people outside academia who are just as strapped as us.

Empty pockets are apparently almost as in style as jean skirts and scarves wrapped around your waist, ask just about anyone in the country right now. It's no secret — the economy isn't exactly booming. Whether it's a passing fad or not, I don't know.

I'm not by any means an economist. I won't even claim to understand what's going on with the money in our country right now, but I'll go out on a limb and make a bet with what pocket lint I do have that most other Americans don't understand either. I'll put money on a guess that most, like me, are just noticing that they don't have those few extra bucks in their pockets.

And don't forget most of you reading this are also college students. This leaves you close to the bottom of the economic ladder.

As we start another academic year, Missoula has again welcomed us with green mountains stretching as if they were open arms, ready for us to resume another semester. It feels as though we never left, but something changed over the summer. We became even more broke than we were before.

A special session of the Montana Legislature left us dry, dropping university funding below 1992 levels. First, education's best friend, Governor Judy Martz slashed the budget by 5.5 percent. Then, our friends in the Legislature cut another 4.9 percent in August. The University of Montana got hit hardest with a 10.9 percent cut in state money.

So, if the money doesn't come from the state, you cut programs and charge students. This semester, Joe Student will pay an extra \$2.50 per credit. Next semester, it could be an extra \$10 per credit.

Sounds bleak. Sounds maddening. But, the thing is, there's just not much blame to place. Sure, education shouldn't be cut. Sure, it sucks to have to write that tuition check out for more than you expected. But the thing is, we're not the only ones hurting here, the entire nation is slowly going broke, if it isn't already there.

But what does broke mean? Let's take a look at

what it means literally — it means broken, battered, destroyed.

I'll admit, I've always been a bit Pollyannic when it comes to money. But, I blame that on the era in which I grew up. Like many of you reading this, I don't really ever recall a really tough economic time. My family was never rich by any means, but I never really went without anything either. I grew up knowing that money was something for which you worked hard, but the true value was the hard work, not the money. I grew up with a "money can't make you happy mentality" and even chose a career, knowing well that I would not make oodles of cash, because I loved it, and still do.

But in my old age (all 22 years) I've become more realistic about money — mostly because it has become a big part of my life. I hate to admit it, but the older I get, the more I realize that no, money can't make me happy, but a lack of it can make me unhappy.

**I'm not by any means an economist. I won't even claim to understand what's going on with the money in our country right now, but I'll go out on a limb and make a bet with what pocket lint I do have that most other Americans don't understand either. I'll put money on a guess that most, like me, are just noticing that they don't have those few extra bucks in their pockets.**

While living in Washington D.C. for the summer, I walked through a park everyday on my way to work. I always kept a big pocket full of change for the hobos who lived there. I always felt too bad just ignoring them. One day, as I handed a guy named Phil a handful of my change, he looked at me and said, "You're pretty. Would go to a movie? On me?"

"I'm sorry," I said, "But no." I didn't have the heart to tell him the change that I gave him wouldn't pay for two movies.

That night, I left the office and headed for the Metro (D.C.'s subway system, and my form of transportation for the summer). I got to the station and didn't have enough change for a ticket. (By the way, at this point, I decided to stop handing out change.) I walked back up the escalator and began the journey home. It started to rain, not Montana drizzle but D.C. jungle rain. I didn't have enough money to hail a cab. I was miserable, drenched, sweaty, tired and horribly crabby, all because I didn't have any money.

All the same, I learned something from those experiences — money can help you do the things that can ultimately make you happy. (A movie would've made Phil happy, a cab would've made me happy.) But, all in all, this knowledge I gained, was free. This is much like the current dire straits of the education system. Although it sounds like a bad Mastercard commercial, you just can't put a price on knowledge. Sure, you pay the tuition to get that knowledge, but ultimately, it is free. The money goes to the concrete things that make up the university, but when all is said, taught and learned, the knowledge you attain is free and priceless.

Because, when it comes right down to it, the contents of one's pockets cannot be indicative of the contents of one's soul, and even though the best things in life cannot be totally free (everything really does come with a price), sometimes they are unseen.

## Here's the deal:

The Kaimin will run guest columns in "Campus Voices" on Fridays. Please submit 600-word opinion pieces to [letters@kaimin.org](mailto:letters@kaimin.org) or drop them off in the Kaimin office in Journalism 206 by Wednesday afternoons. Columns may be edited for clarity, brevity and length.

**LETTERS POLICY:** Letters should be no more than 300 words, typed and double-spaced. Writers are limited to two letters per month. Letters should be mailed, or preferably brought, to the Kaimin office in room 206 of the Journalism Building with a valid ID for verification. E-mail may be sent to [letters@kaimin.org](mailto:letters@kaimin.org). Letters must include signature (name in the case of E-mail), valid mailing address, telephone number and student's year and major, if applicable. All letters are subject to editing for clarity and brevity.



## Montana Kaimin

Our 105th  
Year

The Montana Kaimin, in its 105th year, is published by the students of The University of Montana, Missoula. The UM School of Journalism uses the Montana Kaimin for practice courses but assumes no control over policy or content.

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clarity and brevity. Longer pieces may be sub-  
mitted as guest columns.



NEWS

Arson

Continued from Page 1

cient evidence at this point to charge anyone (with a crime)," Van Valkenburg said.

The fire was set two days after Neff and Grayson said they received a threatening letter in the mail that was filled with a white powder and accompanied by notes that read "Die Dykes" and "Anthrax." The powder in the letter was turned over to the Missoula County Health Department and determined not to be anthrax.

According to the 17-page warrant application, signed by Missoula Police Detective Steve Trollope, authorities wanted to search the couple's Brinks Home Security Safe "for any records or materials relating to the financial well being of Carla Grayson and/or Adrienne Neff ... or evidence that the fire was set at such a residence for exposure and/or sympathy."

District Judge John Larson approved the application, and inside of the safe police primarily found personal financial records and contracts.

Grayson, who has taken a yearlong leave of absence from teaching at UM, is living with Neff in Ann Arbor, Mich., where she will teach this academic year at the University of Michigan. Both have repeatedly denied setting the fire.

Grayson and Neff did not agree to a phone interview but did respond to an e-mail interview. Please see story on Page 12 for the interview with Grayson.

The women and their supporters, including Karl Olson, the executive director of Montana's gay and lesbian group, Pride, have voiced their displeasure recently over how police and prosecutors are handling the investigation.

Olson held a press conference in front of the Missoula County Courthouse Aug. 25 to express his anger over the direction authorities have taken in the case. He was particularly unhappy about the manner in which he was recently questioned by Missoula detectives. He said he was told he is a "person of interest" in the case.

"The theory that they are working on — that we are radical activists — is a dangerous

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This card is posted outside the garage of the former home of Carla Grayson and Adrienne Neff.

Josh Parker/Montana Kaimin

theory," Olson said in a phone interview.

He also referred to the search warrant as "unsubstantiated claims that sends a message to discredit Carla and Adrienne."

Van Valkenburg, said Thursday that police are investigating all appropriate avenues in the case.

"A number of people have been interviewed. Why he went public with this I have no idea," Van Valkenburg said.

Here is what the search warrant outlines in the investigation:

When investigators and firefighters arrived at the scene, they found no evidence of a forced entry and found the front door unlocked.

Grayson and Neff both told authorities that during the evening leading to the night of the fire, they met with Carol Snetsinger and Nancy Siegel, fellow plaintiffs in the lawsuit, at their home to discuss future press releases involving the lawsuit and the threatening letters they all received.

They said they were certain they locked the front door of the house after Snetsinger and Siegel left, but weren't sure if they'd locked the kitchen door leading into the garage.

Investigators said gasoline from the couple's garage was used to soak rope, rags and socks that were in the home. The gas-soaked material was spread throughout both the upstairs and downstairs of the couple's home. Grayson told police they did have cotton rope in the garage that they used as a pulley system for their boat, and that the couple had gasoline in the garage for their lawn mower and weed trimmer.

The warrant application said an "outsider would have been unfamiliar with the residence, would not have known where the items used would have been stored" and would have had to lay the gas-soaked items throughout the house without awakening the two women and their 22-month-old son.

The fire was first reported at 5:42 a.m.

Grayson told a detective that after their friends left, she went to sleep soon after, but believed Neff was up and down several times during the evening and recalls that around 2 a.m. Neff had brought their son into the bedroom for Grayson to nurse. Grayson returned the child to his bedroom when she finished nursing.

She said the next thing she knew Neff was waking her up to the sound of fire alarms. After Neff went across the hall to get the child, Grayson said, they closed the bedroom door and escaped through a window.

Neff struggled to get out the small window, Grayson said, but handed her the baby and told her to go ahead and call about the fire. Investigators said though there was a headboard directly below the window, it was covered with "dust, dirt or soot, but no evidence of

footprints as if someone had stood on the headboard to exit through the window."

Neff told detectives that between 3 a.m. and 3:30 a.m. she thought she heard doors opening and closing and footsteps, although she was not sure if she was really hearing someone in the home, or just household items like the furnace or icemaker.

The document said that Neff considered getting her Glock pistol in the garage or calling 9-1-1, but the handset to the portable phone in the bedroom was in the living room.

When Neff realized she smelled gasoline, she said, she woke Grayson and went across the hall to get their child. After helping Grayson and their child out the window, Neff said she struggled to get out the window but managed to get out head first, losing her glasses in the process.

Firefighters and investigators searched outside the bedroom window for Neff's glasses but couldn't find them, the application said. A few days later Neff and a neighbor said they found the glasses in the same area.

When firefighters arrived on the scene, the search warrant reads, they did not smell gasoline on either woman, although Fire Marshal Bob Rajala said he noticed a ring of soot around Neff's mouth and later advised Detective Trollope that "the amount of smoke and heat staining in the master bedroom was very insignificant and would not account for soot staining around her mouth." Neff contended that she acquired the soot because she was in the bedroom longer than Grayson or their son.

Grayson and Neff were interviewed simultaneously

but separately the afternoon following the fire. Both of the interviews were taped and video-recorded.

The application said that following the interviews, Neff and Grayson were in the same room while the video recorder continued to run, and that Neff made a phone call and during the phone conversation said, "We're at the police station being grilled for hours. Neither of us broke though." At one point, the document reads, Grayson lowered her voice and said to Neff, "You need to be careful about sounding too congenial here."

The application said outside investigators have reviewed the scene.

Special Agent Lance Hart, an investigator with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms assigned to Spokane, said that arsonists who use ignitable liquids to start a fire typically bring those fuels with them.

Olson called the search warrant application "overkill."

"I'm afraid (police) have settled on this theory that we believe is outrageous and they have missed or ignored other clues or leads," Olson said.


Olson also referred to the search warrant as another way authorities are "leaking" information to the press.

"In absence of a court case (authorities) are trying to try (Grayson and Neff) in the public eye," Olson said. "There is nothing in court, and they are waging a campaign through the media."


Van Valkenburg said Olson's theory was incorrect and that authorities are conducting the case appropriately.

"I don't know how (Olson) comes to that conclusion when he is opening the faucet by going public," Van Valkenburg said.

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## News

# UM hires tech expert to aid disabled students

**Jeff Windmueller**  
Montana Kaimin

The University of Montana has hired a full-time staff member to help the approximately 752 students with disabilities, or 6 percent of the student body, learn the technology that can assist them in and outside of the classroom.

Nick Baker, a 1994 graduate

of the School of Journalism and an experienced technology writer, is the first assistive technology coordinator for Disability Services for Students.

"A disability doesn't necessarily mean that a person won't be a good student or a great professional; assistive technology makes it possible for people to go to school who otherwise wouldn't," said Baker.

Oftentimes the software can be troublesome and difficult to learn, but now students have Baker to assist them full time, which some say is a big step for the program.

"Assistive technology is primarily a pain in the ass," said James Marks, director of Disability Services. Marks, who lost his vision to a degenerative disease more than 25 years ago,

uses a program called JAWS to read back the information on a computer monitor.

"The technology is the bridge to functioning like anyone else," Marks said.

Prior to Baker's position, two student employees were taught how to use the software and then trained to help the disabled. Shortly after the employees had mastered the software, however, they graduated or moved.

"I think it's wonderful, and he will add a lot to the University," said Kasandra Lundquist, president of the Alliance for Disability and Students of the University of Montana.

"He is also hired on as a grant writer which will help out ... especially with the lack of money coming into the University," Lundquist said.

Over the summer, Baker worked with ADSUM to develop the Test Pilot program. If successful, the program will allow students to read a professor's

words on a monitor, or receive a typed out version of the lecture at the end of class. Test Pilot gives the hearing impaired and students with learning disabilities a second chance at a lecture.

Dragon Naturally Speaking, a type of computer software, allows blind students or those with mobile impairments to write without the use of a keyboard. When the user speaks into a microphone the computer recognizes the voice and types the words out.

Another high-tech development is a tool named the Roadrunner. The lightweight remote about the size of a pack of cigarettes can hold the information of six textbooks, refer to and read a specific chapter, and even bookmark a page so blind students can refer back to it.

"The DSS's responsibility is to provide reasonable accommodations; to give disabled students the same opportunities as a student without disabilities," said Baker.



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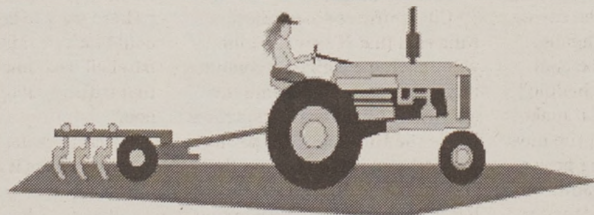
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## 'Cuffed caper

**Kellyn Brown**  
Montana Kaimin

When in doubt, don't run, especially if you are handcuffed and have given authorities your name.

The University of Montana's Office of Public Safety responded to a report that someone was trying to force his way into a shop window at the University Villages at 11:30 p.m. Wednesday, said Lt. Jim Lemcke, assistant director of Public Safety.

The suspect was found in a university-owned pick up in the parking lot of the villages. Public Safety Officer Mike Blazevidh proceeded to arrest him. Before Blazevidh could get him into the police car, but after the suspect had been handcuffed and identified, the man bolted.

Lemcke said Blazevidh was almost hit by a car as he chased the suspect across street.

"Now the suspect (was) running down the street in handcuffs, and he identified himself before he took off," Lemcke said.

The next day a friend of the suspect called Lemcke and asked what the best thing was for the suspect to do.

"I told him to turn himself in and cooperate," Lemcke said.

After 14 hours in handcuffs, which were split in the middle, the suspect went to the Public Safety building and cooperated, Lemcke said.

The suspect's name was not released because he hasn't been charged yet, but Lemcke said he will be charged with burglary.

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Missoula Public Safety



## NEWS

# UM constructing additional student housing

Chris Rodkey  
Montana Kaimin

The University of Montana will make its first effort since 1995 to ease the Missoula rental housing crunch by building a 216-apartment village south of Dornblaser Field on Higgins Avenue. The 12-building complex will house 432 upper-classmen and graduate students.

Early construction on the project is already in progress, and it is expected to be completed by July 2004. Rent is projected to be \$400 a month per student for the utilities-included, fully furnished two-bedroom apartments.

The \$19 million project will be funded through bonds and will be completely self-sufficient, paying itself off using the revenues collected from rent, said Bob Durringer, vice president of administration and finance for UM.

The new complex will sit on land that is currently open space stretching from the southern edge of Dornblaser Field to Pattee Canyon Drive. The village will face Higgins Avenue. A small alteration will be made to the seventh hole of the University Golf Course to allow for the new housing.

Residence Life Director Ron Brunell said the new townhouse-style village is the result of community discussions last year concerning the flood of student renters in Missoula neighborhoods. UM felt the need to ease the burden on the rental market, he said.

"It's not going to solve all the housing problems," Brunell said, "but it will take some pressure off of the community."

Missoula Mayor Mike Kadas said the city has an interest in seeing the University develop more housing for students.

"I think it looks like a quality project and will be beneficial to the students and to the University," he said. "Any time we can increase the amount of housing it will help stabilize prices."

Included in the plans for the



Ground breaking has begun for the new student apartment village, which will be located at the south end of Dornblaser Field.

Nick Wolcott/Montana Kaimin

new housing complex is the addition of a 400-spot parking lot to expand UM's current free Park-N-Ride to 650 spots.

ASUM Vice President Christy Schilke said that in addition to the current Park-N-Ride buses, Missoula's Mountain Line bus system may provide service.

Schilke said the new lot will complement the housing development. She said that while students might have concerns about the price of the new housing, after adding in utilities and furnishings, it's not a bad deal at all.

"I think for a brand new two-bedroom apartment, it's awesome," she said. "I would live there."

The ASUM community gardens will not be affected by the new development.

Brunell said Public Safety will patrol the new complex just as it does the current University

Villages. Adjoining neighborhoods should not be concerned about disruption by partying students, he said.

"There will be a civil, community environment with (the apartments)," he said. "We wanted villages because of their community aspect."

The apartments will also provide an opportunity for dormitory residents to continue living at the University, Brunell said.

"This is a natural transition of housing," he said. "It will allow us to have a transition from the dorms to more of an apartment-style living arrangement."

Bonds to build the project were approved by the Montana Board of Regents at their July meeting. An architect is being selected this week, and holes are already being dug for sewer lines and other utilities.

Durringer said UM hopes to get as much done as possible before the snow falls. As soon as the frost is out of the ground in the spring, crews will pick up work again.

The new village will be completed on a "fast-track schedule" in order to get it done and making money. Pantzer Hall, the most recent University housing project, completed in 1995, was built using the same process, Durringer said.

"We have to get this thing completely finished so that it's making its own payments," he said. "When nobody is living in it, it's not paying off the bond."

Residents of the adjoining neighborhoods seemed supportive of the idea. Pete and Doris Hasquet — both UM alums — said that although the University's plans are more or less finalized, they look forward to upcoming community forums to discuss issues with UM administrators. One of their biggest concerns was the traffic that an additional 800-plus automobiles could cause on Higgins Avenue.

"This place is so congested right now, it's just ridiculous," Pete Hasquet said. His house sits on a corner right across the street from where the new housing development will be built. He said it can take as long as 10 minutes to turn left onto Higgins Avenue during rush hour traffic in the mornings.

City traffic engineer Steve King said that Higgins Avenue will undergo a complete renovation around the same time the apartments will near completion. While the University will pay for the curbs and sidewalks on the village's side of the street, the city has been planning to do work on Higgins Avenue — and pay for it —

for a while.

"We knew that this was coming for years," King said. "It's not sneaking up or surprising us."

The renovations will be similar to the work done on southwest Higgins Avenue this summer, including a middle turning lane, bike lanes and new sidewalks, he said.

Durringer said the University will complete a study with the city later this fall that will look at the need for an added signal light near the housing complex and other traffic concerns.

The Hasquets said that although there might be a few inconveniences ahead, they are looking forward to the new development. Pete Hasquet said the land that the apartments will soon fill is now nothing more than a "giant dog toilet." He welcomes anything that cleans up the dusty and empty area.

"I've been waiting 16 years for them to do something," he said. "There used to be a time when I could take my kids over to play baseball, but now they can't do that without stepping in dog poo."

Doris Hasquet thinks that leaving the land as it is would be a waste.

"It's got to be done. We totally support that," she said.








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## NEWS

# ASUM looks to gain students' attention

Natalie Storey  
Montana Kaimin

ASUM President Jon Swan and Vice President Kristy Schilke say they can read each other's minds.

"The number one thing we have going for us is that we are totally a team," Swan said. "We work well together."

"Our strongest point is that we communicate," Schilke said. "We talk with each other, not at each other."

The pair have big plans for the school year and are gearing up to fulfill many of the promises they made during their campaign last April.

ASUM has already hired a new housing director, Judy Spannagel, who will run the Off-Campus-Renter Center. Part of Spannagel's job will be to increase dialogue between the community and the University regarding housing issues as well as helping students to find affordable housing, Swan said.

Swan and Schilke are also concerned with student involvement in state government — especially since this is a legislative year — and voter turnout among students, Swan said.

"We need numbers in order to get our voices heard," Swan said. "There are a lot of unfriendly legislators, and they need to be held accountable. Voters need to know what they are doing."

"This is done every year, but we need to continue to work on ways to entice students to vote," said Schilke. "Students are a large population of Missoula,

and they can make a difference."

Swan said ASUM has been trying to contact various organizations across the country that concentrate their efforts on voter turnout among college students, including MTV.

"We want them here on campus," said Swan. "Or at least their materials and tactics."

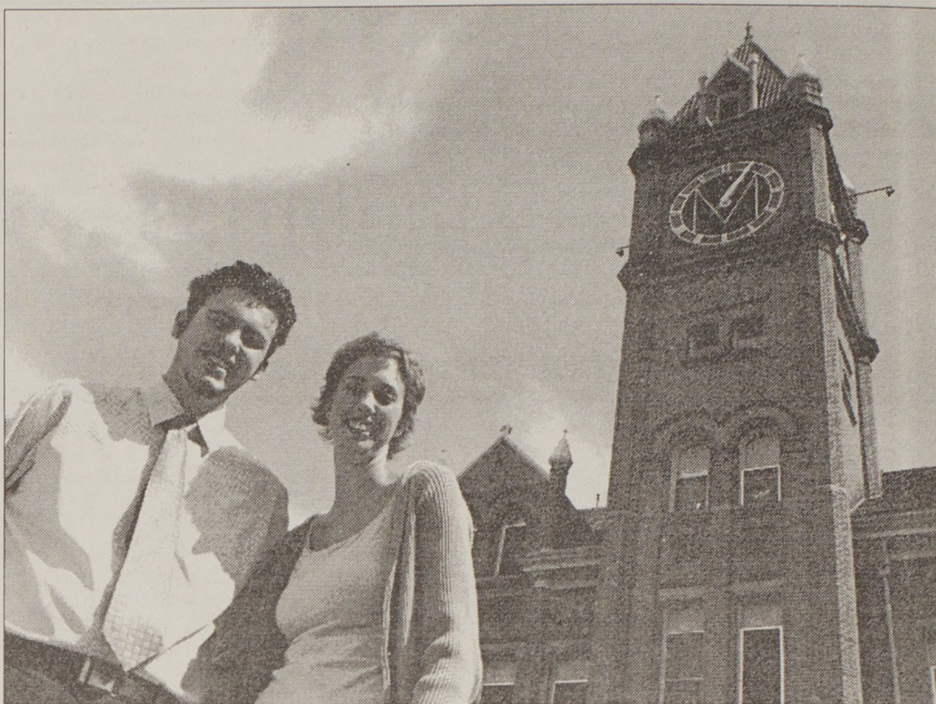
ASUM will also be holding a lobbyist training program later in the year, Swan said. The program will be open to all students and will concentrate on teaching them how to get involved in local and state governments.

"We want all students in general," said Swan. "It will train students who are interested in the legislative process but don't know what to do."

Swan said he hopes the training will encourage more students to participate in lobbying the state Legislature.

ASUM is also working on a voter's guide that would be sent out to the general public. The guide, according to Swan, would educate voters on important issues. ASUM is working on getting the voter's guide endorsed by other associated college student groups across the state, but for this to happen, the state Board of Regents would have to approve it as well, Swan said.

Also, ASUM will continue to be a presence at local government meetings, said Schilke. Schilke and Swan regularly attend local government meetings and plan to continue to do so, as much as time allows, they said.



ASUM President Jon Swan and Vice President Kristy Schilke will be tackling issues such as the occupancy standard and will be hosting a lobbyist training program later in the year.

So far, Swan and Schilke have found their new jobs very rewarding.

"I am more involved with students on a different level now," Schilke said. "I have a much broader sense of how the University works. I am better informed with the realization that there is the possibility of change and that there are choices, whereas I didn't feel like I had any before."

"I know I wouldn't be as passionate about many of the issues that (students) face if I wasn't a

part of ASUM," Swan said. "Though sometimes what we do is frustrating, it is often rewarding and fun. I love it. I love serving students. This has made me a better person."

In other ASUM news, ASUM senator Nathan Queener, a junior and a member of the progressive coalition, has

resigned his position because he will be studying away from campus next semester. Everyone interested in student government is encouraged to apply. The position will be filled after applicants go through an interviewing process with the ASUM interview committee.

## CyberBEAR gets overhaul

Chris Rodkey  
Montana Kaimin

Students checking their schedules online will find CyberBEAR has undergone a facelift over the summer, providing a cleaner and easier-to-read way to navigate UM's registration Web site.

After logging on to the CyberBEAR Web site, students will find a welcome page that provides announcements concerning the status of the multi-featured online service and a fresh new user interface.

The changes came as part of a bi-annual update to the university's Banner software, which is the backbone of all student information on campus, said registrar Phil Bain. While sometimes the automatic updates are almost invisible, the most recent one gave CyberBEAR its new teal zeal.

While the font and color

changes to CyberBEAR are mostly cosmetic, Bain said, a feature arriving in a few months will allow students to check on their graduation requirements and compare them to their current academic progress.

"It will tell you what you've done and what you need to do" in order to graduate, Bain said.

Paulette Nooney, UM graduation coordinator, said being able to check students' progress electronically will aid her in deciding which students have met the requirements to graduate. Instead of students filling out a form listing all their classes, now she will be able to check those classes online and match them with graduation levels.

"I'm thinking when we get it completely 100 percent working right, with no glitches, it's going to be a huge tool for us and students," Nooney said.

The applications for spring

2003 graduation are due Oct. 1, however, Bain said the new degree audit procedure would not be working until late October. Students will still have to apply to graduate the old-fashioned way until the system is up and running, he said.

While the first week of a new semester generally meant the reduction of CyberBEAR functions to a snail's pace, the installation of two new processors in the mainframe computers that run Banner should allow for speedier access to the Web site. If one processor goes down, another will kick in without an interruption in service.

"I'm optimistic and hopeful that it will be working faster this fall," Bain said.

In case something goes wrong, a 24-hour support team usually will have the problem fixed within 20 to 30 minutes, he said.



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NEWS

Tuition

Continued from Page 1

tors seemed happy that they hadn't raised any taxes during the special session, "in essence, they did, because taxes were raised on students, some of the lowest income people in the state."

Duringer echoed Swan's disappointment, saying the legislators were "completely dogmatic along their party lines." The best

way, he said, to get support for the University is to elect legislators this fall who are higher-education friendly.

Swan said he is actively looking at completing a voter guide for students and their families, and asking the other associated student bodies at other Montana campuses to sign on their support to find more legislators who are friendly to higher education. He is also planning to train students to lobby the Legislature next spring.

Baird

Continued from Page 1

got into bed with her. After allegedly pulling off his sweat pants and masturbating in front of her, court records said, he allegedly undressed the woman and began rubbing her. The women said Baird then forced her to have sex with him against her will and following the alleged assault Baird immediately washed a towel and clothes.

The woman said she did not tell Baird to stop during the alleged rape because she felt like she was unable to stop the attack.

The woman's friend and health care assistant both told investigators that they witnessed Baird making sexual advances that the woman refused.



Tyrone Baird

Lemcke said Public Safety has a strict code of ethics that every officer is asked to follow.

"We encourage people to come forward if they think an officer has improper behavior," Lemcke said.

The Kaimin was unable to reach Baird for comment.

Baird's attorney, Richard Buley, said, "The only comment I have at this time is that there is no sense of talking about it until the trial and until then (Baird) is presumed innocent."



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## KAIMIN SPORTS

## Griz volleyball all smiles after perfect start

**Brittany Hageman**  
Montana Kaimin

Perma-grins were locked on the faces of the Grizzly volleyball team last Saturday night. And why not?

After being haunted last year with a record of 5-16, a season when the Griz battled injuries and struggled with consistency, the team had little to smile about.

But after winning the Ruby's Montana Invitational last weekend, the girls were all dimples.

"It just feels fabulous, I can't think of any other word to describe the feeling," said Griz outside hitter Lizzie Wertz, who was also voted the tourney's M.V.P. "The win really gives us the boost of confidence we'll need to start off the rest of the season."

Teammates Danae Thorsness, Whitney Pavlik and Diana Thompson joined Wertz with all-tournament team honors.

Thorsness was recognized at the libero position—a new defensive specialist position allowed by the NCAA—for sacrificing her flesh and scooping up potential kills. Pavlik was selected as top outside hitter of the tournament and Thompson, who shares playing time with her sister Claire at setter, earned recognition after leading the Grizzlies in assists.

Montana's first two victories against Boise State and Eastern Kentucky went off without a hitch as the Griz beat each team in three straight games.

The championship game against Mississippi was more

hard fought though, with the Griz losing the first game, then bouncing back to win three straight.

Head coach, Nikki Best, said she couldn't have been more pleased with the team's performance. She attributed the Griz's success to the team's scrappiness and precision passing.

Despite the absence of Griz veteran Katy Kubista, who is out with a fractured right hand, and the addition of three newcomers in the starting line-up, the team maintained a well-polished look.

"Normally, at the beginning of the season you have a bunch of dinky little mistakes, but we didn't really have those," Best said. "We're already miles ahead of where we were at the end of last season. I'm seeing so much more confidence in the girls' faces, and it will be nice heading into the season with a 5-0 edge instead of having to play catch-up."

On the court, Wertz said the Griz had a real teamwork "vibe" flowing.

"It was like we didn't even have to talk to one another," Wertz said. "We just anticipated each others' moves. The team effort this weekend was just phenomenal."

In their first game, the Grizzlies beat Boise State 30-18, 30-28, 30-20, with a standout performance from Grizzly rookie, Whitney Pavlik.

If Pavlik, a 6-foot freshman from Laguna Beach, Calif., had butterflies for her first collegiate match, she didn't show it.

Accounting for 17 Grizzly kills and 11 digs, Pavlik's double-double performance didn't surprise Coach Best.

"Although Pavlik is a true freshman, she has the finesse and agility of an older player," Best said. "She just goes out, plays relaxed, and it's just fun to pretty much watch her effortlessly beat teams."

Pavlik was such a great recruit for the Griz because she keeps the left side strong when Wertz goes to the back row, Best said.

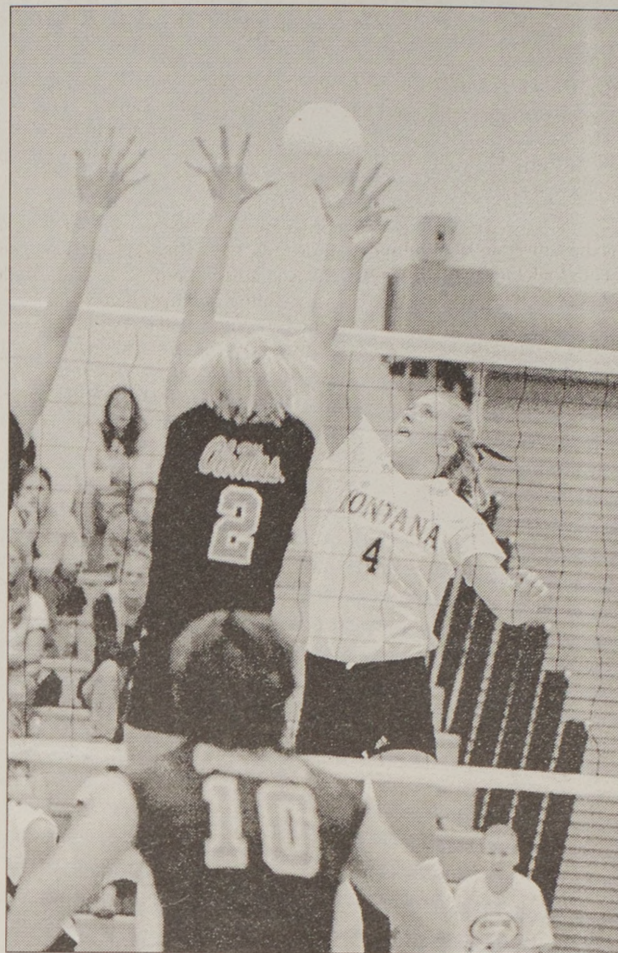
Pavlik said that the team has been confident the last few weeks and the wins were simply an example of them having fun.

The Griz swept by Eastern Kentucky 30-25, 30-21, 30-27 in their second match, as Wertz and Pavlik teamed up for 12 kills apiece, supported by Griz middle blockers Alice Myers and Teresa Stringer, who had eight and nine.

The championship game versus Ole Miss had a potpourri of big contributors. Thorsness came up with some clutch digs from the back row, Stringer and Myers with some big blocks and a streak of aces by outside hitter Audra Pearce helped seal the deal in the final game.

"We've got some scrappy players who don't go away," Best said. "These type of players frustrate teams. They don't give up, they don't go away, and nothing hits the floor."

The team is set to play at Gonzaga on Monday night, which is the precursor to a stint of seven games on the road. But



Lizzie Wertz goes for a spike during one of Saturday's games against the Mississippi Lady Rebels. Wertz took home the tournament's most valuable player honor.

for the first time since 1999, the team will be able to head out on the road with the confidence of a 5-0 start tucked in their duffel bags.

Make no mistake, they'll have their game faces on for tough matches coming up in San Diego and Florida. But for now, they're making time to smile.

## Injury-plagued Griz look to rebound after 0 and 2 start

**Marina Mackrow**  
Montana Kaimin

Montana's goal scoring problems that plagued the soccer team last season carried over to the start of this season, as the Grizzlies dropped their opening two matches of the season at home at the Annual Diadora Cup.

UM mustered one goal in while allowing nine before, disappointing two large home crowds at South Campus Stadium.

Montana, who was looking to improve on last season's 8-8

record, opened their 2002 season Sunday with a 1-0 loss to the Minnesota Golden Gophers.

"Minnesota played great," head coach Betsy Duerksen said. "We were tentative. It was our first game and it showed."

Montana's offense never got off the ground and by the end of the game, they only had five shot attempts to Minnesota's 17. Having five players on the bench with injuries did not help Montana's cause either.

"We were disorganized," said co-captain Courtney Blakely. "We were not a full squad, and we were tired."

With the departure of last sea-

son's goalkeeper Katie Peck, who left the team because of personal reasons, freshman Sarah Braseth had to jump right into the role.

"Sarah is a tough kid," Duerksen said. "She's brave, courageous, and she played big and strong."

The following day against the Washington State Cougars was Braseth's first true test.

Duerksen decided to make a few systematic changes and tried a new defense. Washington scored four goals in less than 20 minutes, propelling them to an 8-1 win.

Red-shirt freshman Katie Roberts scored the lone Grizzly goal, the first goal of her college career, with 20 minutes left in the second half.

"The first ten minutes and the first four goals were my fault," Duerksen said. "We experimented and it obviously didn't work, and they got us on our heels."

But if the Grizzlies were disheartened, they didn't show it in the second half. Instead they emerged from their locker room still smiling and fired up.

"We were super excited coming out in the second half," co-captain, Erin Smith said. "It was a new half and we looked at it as a whole new game. We actually played a lot better in the second half. I think that's something to build on. I think we can walk

away semi-proud."

The Grizzlies were able to tie the second half one to one.

"This was a test of our gut," Smith said. "I'm actually kind of excited to see how we respond to this."

Smith considers this year's team one of the strongest, yet plagued by more injuries than she's ever seen.

"We're trying not to make excuses," Smith said. "I think we are all trying to get past the injuries and last year."

However, a new name was added to Montana's list of injuries during play. Starting forward, Liz Roberts collided with Washington State's goalkeeper early in the game and was carried off the field with her knee braced. She eventually was driven out of the stadium. By the end of the game, Duerksen knew Roberts' knee wasn't broken, but did not know how long Roberts would be out.

While putting last season behind them, the Grizzlies are looking toward the NCAA tournament.

"We're taking it game by game," Blakely said. "We want to win the Big Sky and show well at the NCAA tournament."

To do this, Blakely says, they are staying committed to each other and practice and are living by the team's new motto — "do whatever it takes."

## UM athletes received high grades spring semester

University of Montana student-athletes were some of the top students in the classroom during the spring semester of 2002.

UM student-athletes had a cumulative grade-point average of 2.91, narrowly higher than the total undergraduate populations 2.85 GPA during the same semester.

Close to half of the 255 student-athletes earned a 3.0, and 32 made the Dean's List, which requires a GPA of at least 3.5. Nineteen had perfect 4.0 marks.

The women's tennis team received the highest GPA with a 3.44 average. Women's golf was right behind with a 3.37 average. Soccer, men's tennis, women's cross country and volleyball all maintained GPAs of over 3.0. The team with the lowest average was men's basketball, which had a 2.63 team GPA.

"Every semester, the student-athletes continue to surpass my academic expectations," Jean Cornwall, coordinator of UM's Athletic Academic Services, said in a press release.

— Kaimin Sports Staff



Sophomore defender Wendy Stuker takes a shot in Monday's game against Washington State.



## KAIMIN SPORTS

# New cast pushes Grizzlies past Hofstra

## Gober runs for 104 yards in debut

Bryan Haines  
Kaimin Sports Editor

As the University of Montana Grizzlies took the field Thursday evening in New York against the 15th ranked Hofstra Pride, there were many questions that needed to be answered for the defending national champions.

Would the Griz have a decent running game after being spoiled for three years by Yohance Humphrey? What receiver would take over the play-making reins from Etu Molden? Would the defensive line, missing Ciche Pitcher and Jon Varona, be able to put pressure on Hofstra quarterback Ryan Consentino, who was making his first collegiate start?

Most of those questions were answered in convincing fashion Thursday night as the top-ranked Griz opened up defense of their I-AA title with a 21-0 win over the Pride.

It was the first time since 1978, a span of 255 games, that Hofstra had been shut-out.

Montana's starting signal caller, John Edwards, played a part in all three Grizzly touchdowns. He found senior wide-out Rory Zikmund in the back of the end zone midway through the second quarter for an 8-yard

pitch-and-catch to open scoring, and then added touchdown scampers of one and seven yards in the third quarter to put the game out of reach.

"He is a play-maker," offensive guard Jon Skinner said of Edwards. "He makes our jobs a lot easier back there."

Heading into the opener, no one was questioning what Edwards was going to bring to the table this season. Instead, everyone was wondering who was going to be behind Edwards taking handoffs from him.

Two red-shirt freshmen, David Gober and J.R. Waller, spent most of last spring and this summer fighting for the number one spot. Washington Husky transfer Jelani Harrison, a senior who headed to Montana in search of playing time, added his name to the group early this summer.

While all three showed great speed and natural ability in practice, none of them ever had a single carry in a college football game.

Gober got the starting nod Thursday, and quickly put to rest any doubts that coaches and fans had about the Grizzly ground game.

The freshman rushed for 104 yards on 17 carries, including three bursts over 15 yards each. Waller came in and added 20 yards on six carries while Harrison chipped in 55 yards on

eight carries.

"All three guys did a great job, they give us a nice one-two-three punch," Joe Glenn said. "Gober really answered the bell for us."

It also helped the trio that four starters from last year's offensive line were creating holes for them, Glenn said.

However, the same could not be said for the defensive line Thursday night.

With three starters on the defensive line missing — Pitcher and Curt Colter missed the game due to injuries, and Varona will miss the entire season after having shoulder sur-

gery — Glenn was concerned about where the Grizzly pass rush would come from.

Defensive coordinator Mike Breske made up for the absence on the defensive line by blitzing the Pride unmercifully.

Consentino was blitzed on 45 of the 69 snaps he took.

The pass rush kept Consentino out of rhythm with his receivers the entire game, as he completed 20 of 45 passes for 217 yards with one interception. Hofstra was held to just 277 yards of total offense.

About the only question that wasn't answered against Hofstra

was who would emerge as the prime play-maker at wide receiver.

Zikmund had four other receptions to go along with his touchdown grab, but no Griz receiver gained over 50 yards in receiving while Edwards had only 147 yards passing on 17 completions.

"We have an entire new cast at wide-out, and I figured we would struggle there a little bit," Glenn said. "But as the game went on, they got into the flow and we kept improving. Every game we need to do that."

## Dickenson claimed by Seattle Seahawks

Bryan Haines  
Kaimin Sports Editor

Dave Dickenson wasn't unemployed for long, and the former Grizzly quarterback is moving closer to Missoula after being claimed off waivers Monday afternoon by the Seattle Seahawks.

Dickenson, who was en-route to Seattle to meet with head coach Mike Holmgren and other Seattle coaches, could not be reached for comment Monday. But his agent, Ken Staninger, said the Great Falls native was excited to be in Seattle, and closer to Montana.

"He is relieved to be signed, but deep down, we knew something good was going to happen," Staninger said. "He said he was glad to be getting closer to Montana all the time."

To make room for Dickenson, the Seahawks waived Mark Rypien, whom the team signed when starting quarterback Trent Dilfer suffered a pre-season knee injury.

After spending a season with the San Diego Chargers, Dickenson was released by the club Saturday, putting him on the waiver list.

Players cleared waivers at 4 p.m. Eastern time Monday, allowing teams to then claim players to add to their roster. If multiple teams file a claim for a player, then the player is awarded to the team with the worst record during last season.

Because of that, the process was very tight-lipped, and while Staninger said he had talked to several teams before Monday, no team would say for sure if they were going to claim Dickenson.

"Mum was the word throughout Monday," Staninger said. "The claiming process is very confidential, so it was hard to say where Dave was going to end up."

Throughout the preseason Dickenson battled rookie Seth Burford, a seventh-round pick from Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo for the third-string quarterback position.

Dickenson's preseason numbers, 16 of 29 for 197 yards passing with two touchdowns and one interception, were statistically better than Burford's, who was 8 of 13 for 60 yards with no scores and one interception.

But Charger head coach Marty Schottenheimer decided to go with the younger Burford and his potential. Dickenson is 29 while Burford is 22.

"I think when you look at it you're dealing with the third quarterback. We think that Seth has a considerable upside," Schottenheimer said on the team's Web site.

San Diego's decision to cut Dickenson was a disappointment to him, Staninger said.

"He knows he is ready to play in the league and can play in the league," Staninger said. "He also knows he has not been given the chance to play in the NFL."

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## NEWS

# Police arrest AWOL student, find stolen UM goods

**Kellyn Brown**  
Montana Kaimin

A UM summer school student arrested for going AWOL from the Navy may have also made UM his personal stealing grounds this summer.

This came to light last week after police found his Jesse Hall dorm room filled with items that had disappeared from buildings around campus in recent weeks.

Michael Anthony Ortega, 20, was arrested Aug. 5 in Corbin

Hall for desertion from the U.S. Navy. After Residence Life went to clean Ortega's dorm room — on the assumption that he would not be coming back due to the charge — they found Palm Pilots, sun glasses and numerous CDs.

When Ortega was interviewed on Aug. 9, he admitted to more than 40 separate thefts, said Lt. Jim Lemcke, UM's assistant director of Public Safety. The stolen items included purses, laptop computers and things

from car break-ins.

Ortega was later charged with felony theft and is awaiting a trial date in Missoula Justice Court. He is currently being held in the Missoula County Detention Center under \$5,000 bail.

"His method was to walk into an open building, find an empty office and take what he wanted," said Lemcke.

During the summer several daytime thefts were reported, spurring Public Safety to increase the number of officers in UM buildings during the lunch-time hour, Lemcke said. UM employees were also asked to watch for suspicious characters.

After Ortega was seen wandering around Corbin and Brantly Halls, an employee in Corbin called Public Safety, according to Missoula Justice Court documents.

An officer then approached Ortega and questioned him, and ran his name through police computers. It turned out he had an outstanding warrant for desertion from the Navy, and he was taken into custody.

When officers arrested Ortega, according to court documents, they found he was carrying a Palm Pilot.

Since there had been several thefts of Palm Pilots reported recently on campus, the arresting officer requested the list of

items that had been removed from his dorm room.

Several hand-held computers found in Ortega's room had serial numbers that matched with ones reported stolen, and he was questioned about other thefts.

Lemcke said that thefts are easy at UM because all the buildings are public areas. Also, he said, too often doors and windows are left open or unlocked, and that there are too many building keys floating around.

"I walked into a building and saw a sign on a door that said out to lunch' and the door was open," Lemcke said. "That is literally putting up a sign that says 'please steal from me.'"

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## NEWS

# Always Coca-Cola at UM

The cola wars have come and gone at UM, and now Coke is it on campus.

The University recently signed a \$4.5 million contract with Coca-Cola Bottling of Montana to sell Coke products exclusively at UM-owned vendors.

The UC Market, which is independent from the University, will become the lone outlet for Pepsi beverages, including Mountain Dew and Slice.

UM's decision to go Pepsi-free came after months of competitive bidding between the two soft-drink corporations.

"In this market there's only Coke and Pepsi," said Bob Durringer, vice president for administration and finance at UM. "And Coke came back with the better offer."

Until now, both brands were available from vending machines and the Country Store, but Pepsi products were the only choice at campus cafeterias.

The University began accepting bids for a new contract this summer. Both corporations pitched

their products and services to a UM committee of representatives from Residence Life, Dining Services, and the athletic's department.

The decision to choose Coca-Cola was tough, Durringer said.

"We debated, is service more important? Or is product line?" he said. "Who was really the best?"

In the end, Coca-Cola persuaded the committee with its multi-million dollar offer. The corporation will pay the University \$4.5 million in cash and advertisements throughout the next seven years.

"Given the budget cuts going on in the state, that's not chump change," Durringer said.

Pepsi Cola's final offer was at least half a million less, he said.

The funds will be used to install a 30-square-foot television screen at Washington-Grizzly stadium. Coca-Cola advertisements will be broadcast on the screen. In addition, Coca-Cola will sponsor promotions like punt, pass and kick contests during football games.

Funds will also be used to keep the University's new surcharge, \$2.50

per credit hour, from increasing this semester. Funds will be distributed to dining services and housing, and used for improvements at UM throughout the next seven years.

Students will notice a change in beverages sold throughout campus, said Mark LoParco, director of Dining Services.

"Pepsi drinkers will have to make some adjustments," he said.

However, they'll find their favorite drinks at the UC Market. That's where students can still purchase Mountain Dew, which is the most popular carbonated beverage on campus, he said.

Still, others have met UM's new cola situation with open arms.

"I'm happy with the change," said UM sophomore Erin Campbell. "I'm a Coke drinker."

Fountain drinks that will be sold include Vanilla Coca-Cola, Mr. Pibb, Mello Yello and Barq's Root Beer. Additional Coca-Cola beverages for sale will include Minute Maid juices, Powerade, Fruitopia, Nestea, Planet Java Coffee, KMX energy drinks, and Dasani and Evian water.

# Students, faculty recall professor's wit, dedication

*Michael Laslovich remembered as 'an incredible teacher'*

Natalie Storey  
Montana Kaimin

As classes resume this fall there will be one notable professor absent from the University. Last May, political science associate professor Michael Laslovich died of a heart attack. He was 47 years old.

Laslovich had an esteemed reputation among fellow faculty members.

"He was really committed to teaching," said political science professor Jim Lopach.

"He took (teaching) very seriously and worked hard at it. Most importantly, I think he had high standards for his students. More often than not, he got his students to live up to his standards."

"The man was the most extraordinarily dedicated teacher I've ever met," said Jonathan Tompkins, chair of the Department of Political Science.

Laslovich was a popular professor among students as well.

"He was an incredible teacher," Jordan York said. York is a former student of Laslovich. "He had real love for teaching. He lit up a room when he was in it. People didn't fall asleep in his class, though he was also a difficult teacher."

"He had very high standards for his students, but it made you want to excel in his class," said Katie Auvil-Stutts,

who also had a class taught by Laslovich. "He was very, very witty. He had a sharp wit. He was a very caring professor."

Laslovich would have been teaching two classes this semester. The first is an undergraduate course on media and public opinion and the second is a graduate seminar in

Michael Laslovich

American government. Tompkins and professor Forest

Grievens will take over the classes in his absence, Tompkins said. Laslovich was buried in Anaconda, his hometown. He earned his doctorate from Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario, and began teaching at UM in September 1990.

Laslovich is survived by his wife Jennifer and their sons Dylan, Nicholas and Christopher, who attends UM. He is also survived by three brothers, a sister and his parents.

Laslovich's nephew, State Rep. Jesse Laslovich, also attends UM. He is a political science major. Jesse Laslovich was the youngest legislator ever to serve in Montana last year.

"He was so helpful and so dedicated to his profession," Jesse Laslovich said. "He was dedicated to his classes, to students, to political science and to the University of Montana. And that is something I will never forget."

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## News

# UM professor relates aftermath of arson

After a fire gutted the home of Carla Grayson, her partner Adrienne Neff and their 2-and-a-half year-old son last spring, the family has now relocated to Ann Arbor, Mich., where Grayson is working a research job on leave of absence from the University of Montana. Neff and Grayson turned down the Kaimin's request for a phone interview, but Grayson agreed to the following e-mail interview about their personal lives since the fire that destroyed their home last spring and the ensuing police investigation.

**Q:** First of all, how do you feel about the story being back in the news again?

**A:** Was it a rather peaceful summer? How, emotionally, is your family dealing with all that has gone on?

**A:** It's tiring being in the news. We're actually quite private people and being in the news has been difficult, especially when we feel that the coverage is sensationalized.

The summer was less hectic than the school year but we were still quite busy. We spent a good deal of the summer scrubbing soot off of dishes and furniture. We were also engaged in negotiations with the police and the district attorney's office regarding the return of personal letters from our fire safe. As you are probably aware, the letters were ultimately returned after the police decided that they had no relevance to the case. But first they unnecessarily invaded our privacy by reading them. We had offered several alternatives, including having a judge read the letters, but the police just refused to negotiate in good faith.

We're still having a tough time emotionally. Sometimes people ask me if our lives have gotten back to "normal." They haven't. Sometimes they ask if we have "recovered." We haven't. These questions

assume that the trauma has stopped for us and it hasn't. As long as we continue to be "persons of interest," our lives remain disrupted.

**Q:** Do you plan to return to Missoula? When? How long can you take a leave of absence from UM?

**A:** I have taken a one year leave of absence. I plan to return to Missoula next August and resume my regular professional responsibilities.

**Q:** How is your son? Have you explained to him what you are going through? Does he understand much about what went on?

**A:** Thanks for asking about him. In general, our son is doing well. He's a healthy, happy, resilient kid who loves to go to the park and play on the slide. He is still quite young so he does not understand the specifics of what happened, but he can sense that Adrienne and I are stressed. He's had to weather a number of changes as a result of the fire. We've moved several times in the last six months; he lost the familiarity of home and almost all of his favorite toys and books. Having both his parents with him helps ease some of his anxiety through these transitions.

Our son is the center of our lives and always our first priority. One of the things that makes us most angry about being accused of starting the fire ourselves is the implication that we would endanger our son and disrupt his life to further some political goal or ambition for publicity. We are not looking forward to explaining the fire and the aftermath of public accusations and police harassment to him when he grows older.

**Q:** How do you feel about your supporters being questioned as "persons of interest?"

**A:** I think this line of police

inquiry is ridiculous. It's an insult to our community to think that we engaged in such a conspiracy. For me, it recalls McCarthyism and the specter of guilt by association. It also recalls the days during the civil rights movement when the FBI compiled files on civil rights workers and activists.

**Q:** Do you think Karl Olson's going public has helped or hurt public opinion of the case? How do you feel about him coming forward with his story?

**A:** The police and prosecutors obviously wish he would have remained quiet, but I am glad that Karl came forward to let people know what happened to him. It took a lot of courage, and we applaud him. As more people become aware of the bias that has underscored the police investigation, I think the Missoula community will demand better conduct from our police force.

**Q:** Olson said he believes the police used the warrant application to, in effect, try you in the public eye, not in the courtroom. What do you think of this?

**A:** I am hesitant to speculate about the intentions of other people. However, I can speak to the effect of their actions. By writing such an unnecessarily long and detailed search warrant request, they effectively laid out their suspicions for the public. By doing so in that venue, they did not technically violate the gag order imposed by the district attorney — but they certainly did so in spirit. It was really frustrating to have the police take our words out of context and cast innocuous actions in suspicious light. The warrant request by its nature was a one-sided document. We decided to speak out in response, because we wanted people to know that there is another side.

**Q:** About the search warrant — have you read it? What was your reaction to the detail of the application (i.e. comments about you and your family's demeanor after the fire, etc.)?

**A:** We have read the warrant application and we were surprised by its length and contents. As a psychologist, I was particularly struck by the naiveté of the police attempt to interpret our emotional expressions as inappropriate. It is well known that people react to emergencies in a wide variety of ways. Some people break down in tears, others appear calm, others make jokes. After an attack, victims may focus on their fear of the attacker, their anger at the perpetrator, or on their sheer relief at being alive. People who study emotions know that no particular reaction is considered to be the only normal reaction. They also know that people's reactions change and unfold over time, and thus may encompass a wider range than evidenced in any individual act or utterance.

Several of the people who came to our aid immediately after the fire were my colleagues from the psychology department, some of whom arrived while the house was still burning and others of whom remained with us throughout that first awful day. Two happened to be experts in trauma, and when interviewed by the police, they were able to expound at length about our reactions and their normalcy. Of course, the police did not include that kind of exculpatory information in their warrant application. And that's just one small example of the one-sidedness of what the public has heard.

**Q:** The details of the warrant point to inconsistencies in what you and Adrienne have said happened and what police think happen, what did you think of

its contents? How do you feel about the police department's speculations?

**A:** I think that it is convenient and easy to blame the victims of a hate crime for their own victimization. Some people think that because my life partner happens to be the same sex as me, I am either sick or an immoral person. For those people, the leap to arsonist isn't a very far one.

When people judge others based on their group membership, that's prejudice.

When they act on those beliefs, that's discrimination. This kind of bias is often experienced by members of minority groups when they deal with the police, and it often makes the victims of hate crimes victims twice over. We feel there has been a lot of covert homophobia on the part of the police, and it has made a situation that was incredibly frightening and difficult to begin with immeasurably harder.

**Q:** The warrant discusses a conversation Adrienne had with a friend that was video recorded, where Adrienne said, "We're at the police station being grilled for hours. Neither of us broke though."

**A:** It also contains a comment from you to Adrienne: "You need to be careful about sounding too congenial in here."

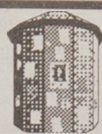
**Q:** Can you explain what you meant by that comment?

**A:** Adrienne was trying to release some anxiety and fear by making a bad joke to an old friend. As I mentioned earlier, people have many ways of dealing with stressful situations, and making jokes is one of them. I was concerned that if one of the police officers returned and heard her making sarcastic remarks, they might not take the fire seriously. I know that hate crimes are not always given a high priority, and I didn't want that to happen in this case.

## Welcome back students!

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